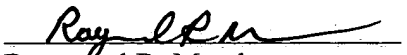
The Claims are 52, and 54-61; and, favorable consideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Should any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney in our New York office at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW REVISIONS MADE TO THE SPECIFICATION

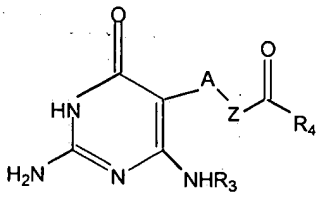
On page 1, please replace the first paragraph with the following.

--This application is a divisional of allowed U.S. Patent Application No. 09/782,284, filed February **[13]** 14, 2001, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/588,654, filed June 7, 2000, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/307,595, filed May 10, 1999, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/003,163, filed January 6, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 5,945,427, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/448,556, filed June 7, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,739,141, which is a 371 of International Application No. PCT/US93/11795, filed December 10, 1993, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 07/991,259, filed December 16, 1992, now abandoned, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.--

MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW REVISIONS MADE TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace Claims 52, 54, and 58, with the following amended claims.

52. (AMENDED) A compound having the formula V



V

whererin:

A represents sulfur or selenium;

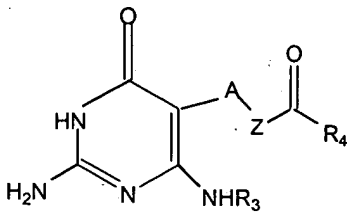
Z represents [1)] **a combination of** a substituted or unsubstituted non-cyclic spacer which separates A from the carbonyl carbon of the amido group by 1 to 10 atoms, said atoms being independently selected from carbon, oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen and phosphorous**, and** [; 2)] a substituted or unsubstituted mono- or fused or nonfused poly-[carbocyclic or] heterocyclic radical[; or 3) a combination of at least one of said non-cyclic spacer and at least one of said carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical], wherein said non-cyclic spacer separates A from one of said [carbocyclic or] heterocyclic radicals by 1 to 10 atoms;

R_3 represents H or a straight, branched or cyclic (C_1 to C_6) alkyl group, optionally carrying one or more hydroxyl or amine groups; and

R_4 represents hydroxy, (C_1 to C_6) alkyloxy group optionally carrying one or more hydroxyl or amine groups, or a protected or unprotected amino acid linked to the acyl group of formula V by the amine portion of the amino acid;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

54. (AMENDED) A process for preparing a compound having the formula V



V

wherein:

A represents sulfur or selenium;

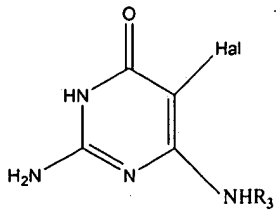
Z represents [1)] **a combination of** a substituted or unsubstituted non-cyclic spacer which separates A from the carbonyl carbon of the amido group by 1 to 10 atoms, said atoms being independently selected from carbon, oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen and phosphorous**, and** [; 2)] a substituted or unsubstituted mono- or fused or nonfused poly-[carbocyclic or] heterocyclic radical[; or 3) a combination of at least one of said non-cyclic spacer and at least one of said carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical], wherein said non-cyclic spacer separates A from one of said [carbocyclic or] heterocyclic radicals by 1 to 10 atoms;

R_3 represents H or a straight, branched or cyclic (C_1 to C_6) alkyl group, optionally carrying one or more hydroxyl or amine groups; and

R_4 represents hydroxy, (C_1 to C_6) alkyloxy group optionally carrying one or more hydroxyl or amine groups, or a protected or unprotected amino acid linked to the acyl group of formula V by the amine portion of the amino acid;

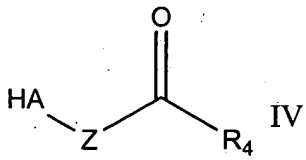
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

which process comprises reacting a compound having the formula VI



VI

wherein Hal is bromine, chlorine, iodine, or fluorine, and R_3 is as defined above, with a compound having the formula IV



IV

wherein A, Z, and R_4 are as defined above, in the presence of a nonnucleophilic auxiliary base in a solvent in which at least one of said reactants is at least partially soluble under conditions sufficient to obtain the compound of formula V.

58. (AMENDED) A process according to claim 54 wherein A represents sulfur and Z represents $-(CH_2)_n$ -X-Ar- wherein

n is an integer from 0 to 5,

X represents a methylene, monocyclic [carbo- or] heterocyclic ring, sulfur, oxygen or amino radical, optionally carrying one or more substituents independently selected from C_1 to C_6 alkyl or C_2 to C_6 alkenyl groups, C_1 to C_6 alkoxy or C_1 to C_6 alkoxy(C_1 to C_6) alkyl groups, C_2 to C_6 alkynyl groups, acyl groups, halogen, amino groups, hydroxyl groups, nitro groups or mercapto groups, monocyclic carbo- or heterocyclic rings, and fused or non-fused poly-carbocyclic or poly-heterocyclic rings; and

Ar represents a monocyclic [carbo- or] heterocyclic aromatic ring or a bicyclic [carbo- or] heterocyclic ring, all or a portion of which may be aromatic, and wherein the Ar may be fused to the monocyclic [carbo- or] heterocyclic ring of X, and wherein the Ar optionally carries one or more substituents independently selected from C_1 to C_6 alkyl or C_2 to C_6 alkenyl groups, C_1 to C_6 alkoxy or C_1 to C_6 alkoxy(C_1 to C_6)alkyl groups, C_2 to C_6 alkynyl groups, acyl groups, halogen, amino groups, hydroxyl groups, nitro groups or mercapto groups, monocyclic carbo- or heterocyclic rings, and fused or non-fused poly-carbocyclic or poly-heterocyclic rings.